



December 10, 2015

Dear Tribal Chair:

This is a letter inviting Tribal Council to formally designate a representative to the Washington Tribal Conservation Advisory Council, (WATCAC) for 2016/2017. This state advisory council has become even more important to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) as we expanded programs and received an additional \$14 million this past fiscal year.

Tribal representatives on the WATCAC can provide information, analysis, and recommendations to officials of the NRCS on implementing and establishing priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs in matters that affect Tribes or their resources. The responsibility for establishing and managing the WATCAC is delegated by the Chief of the NRCS to State Conservationists.

By policy, the WATCAC represents a variety of interests and disciplines in the soil, water, wetlands, plant, and wildlife sciences. At a minimum, representation could include both technical and policy representatives.

The NRCS is proud of the partnerships that have been established over 75 years of implementing conservation on the ground. We rely on the expertise and experience that Tribes and other partners contribute to help ensure our programs and initiatives serve Tribes and the public, effectively conserve and protect our natural resources. We appreciate your past support of our agency and look forward to continuing our partnership and collaboration with you.

The contributions made by Tribal representatives would primarily be through meetings, teleconferences both phone and webinars, which occur every other month, and providing suggestions and advice via verbal or written (email) correspondence with my staff. NRCS will continue to support Tribal representatives to travel to two face-to-face meetings per year depending on funding availability.

To ensure any participants have Tribal Council approval, please provide a Tribal resolution identifying Tribal staff that you would like to participate by January 15, 2016.

With sincere thanks,

ROYLENE RIDES AT THE DOOR

State Conservationist

Attachments:

Letter with meeting schedule for 2016

General Manual policy for Tribal Advisory Councils

Tribal report